

[HANNEN's sentence of nine months' im-

THE MASON EPISODE

HANNON's sentence of 'nine months' imprisonment ended on the side of severity. Jim Luskaby remarked that there was in the prisoner's conduct almost a childlike egotism which reduced the gravity of the offense. As to this, it may be remarked that any conspiracy to foment rebellion looks childish if it is discovered in its early stages; it is only success that can give it any different character. Maoos was most likely playing for success, he believed to be 'high state'; he thought it would be a short cut to power and that he would ride on the crest of the wave to wealth and the leadership of men. That he was possibly mistaken as to the nature of the movement with which he became connected and that he certainly made a fool of himself in attempting to play his part does not to our mind detract from the

THE COST OF PUBLIC WORKS.

and expensive staff and has a right to expect that the work shall be of the first quality and executed at the most economical rate. But instead of this, and the very building erected by the Surveyor-General's Department, costs from 25 to 50 per cent. more than a similar building could have been erected for under the superintendence of an architect in private practice. A partial explanation of this may be found in the fact that the Surveyor-General's staff consists of engineers and does not include architects. The remedy is a simple one; it lies, not in the direction of increasing the staff by engaging architects, but in largely reducing it and giving out the work of producing plans and supervising the construction to private builders and private firms. If this course were followed the Government would be served as well and as economically as private individuals.

QUARANTINE REGULATIONS.

It would be impossible to condemn too strongly the action of the Government in referring to the Harbour Board, for counselling passengers arriving by ship, to which there is no contagion disease to remain on board for the period of their quarantine. His Excellency the Acting Governor, replying to the Hon. T. H. WHEATLEY at the meeting of the Legislative Council on Monday, complained that the present holders of the office of Harbour Master are being responsible for this and other mistakes, and that it is not, whereas they merely happened to be holding office for the time being, while the laws had been in force for many years. This would be all very well if accusations were made against the officials personally, but it is the Government, and not the individual Harbour Master, that is responsible at particular times, time is slackened in the self-governing Colony the Government of the day may with some reason disclaim responsibility for the acts of its predecessors, but in a Crown Colony, where the official authority is always in power, it must accept complete responsibility. And in this matter the Government of the Colony has a high complaint may be founded to set days to their back. Formerly there was a lazaretto on Stonecutters' Island and sufficient ground at that place for the accommodation of as many passengers as were ever likely to be placed under quarantine. It is true that buildings had not been erected for the accommodation of passengers, but the Government had intended to have followed in natural course. Instead of that the Government asked the Legislative Council for a vote for a hospital ship, which was understood to be intended

THE SILVER QUESTION

we shall have regained the point it had reached when that rate was decided upon.

tone of the meeting was very different from that of the meeting held in March last, when the speaker, Mr. J. H. Williams, a prominent agitator against the military contribution, was proportionately more likely to be effective in rebuking the purposes for which it was held. As the *Straits Times* puts it, the former meeting was at times violent, and of a strongly assertive character; the latter meeting was more reasonable and was devoid of untidy language. There was no shouting from the position taken up at the meeting, when the alleged injustice of the demand made by the home Government was the keynote of all the speeches, but the point was not now dwelt upon, the speaker's plea for recognition being based on the altered condition of the Colony's finances, and the home Government was urged to

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on the 5th inst. There were present:—
 His Excellency the GOVERNOR
 Major-General G. DIGHT BAKER, C.B.
 Hon. W. M. GOODMAN, Acting Colonial Secretary.
 Hon. J. J. LEACH, Acting Attorney General.
 Hon. J. H. STEWART-LOCKHART, Registrar General.
 Hon. N. G. MITCHELL-INNES, Colonial Treasurer.
 Hon. F. A. COOPER, Acting Surveyor-General.
 Hon. W. C. H. HASTINGS, Acting Harbour Master.
 Hon. P. R. RYDER.
 Hon. C. P. CHATFIELD.
 Hon. H. KAI.
 Hon. M. H. WINTERBURN.
 Mr. A. M. THOMPSON, Acting Clerk of Council.

NEW MEMBER.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY—By permission of his Excellency I have the honour to lay upon the table the report of the Acting Superintendent of the Fire Brigade for 1890. I have also to lay upon the table the report of the Finance Committee and to move the adoption of the report.

LODGING-HOUSE BY-LAWS

The LEGISLATOR GENERAL—I beg to lay upon the Council the following report, approved by this Council of the by-laws, as amended, relating to common lodging-houses. It will be within the memory of hon. members that these by-laws came before the Legislative Council in 1885, and that the Council, after the Hon. the Attorney-General received a careful consideration of the Bill, and after the Hon. the Attorney-General and all the members of the Council were unanimously of opinion that the object of the Bill was to be attained, the by-laws were more likely to be attained by laying them by immediate action. They therefore, recommended to the Council that section 17 of the by-laws be amended so that the by-laws may be amended at any time, and that the Council may delay under ordinary circumstances does not always lead to the best results, but in this case delay is, in order to allow time for further consideration of the subject, more likely to attain the object aimed at than an action upon the amended knowledge of all the facts of the case. I therefore beg to lay upon the table the amended

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THE QUESTION OF QUARANTINE
Hon. T. H. WATKINS said: I

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ward plaining ships which arrive with cholera on board under observation, removing their crews to other passengers to suitable facilities on shore, and the use of disinfectants and other measures of prophylaxis and may prevent a small percentage of the disease among the surrounding population, but can never prevent an epidemic outbreak. General Lawson read a paper on the immunitability of cholera from country to country. He pointed out that since 1893 when cholera was first introduced into India, cholera nostras has been observed to fluctuate every few years, and with the milder cases occur in certain number presenting all the characters of epidemic cholera, but that it is not usually so virulent or in small groups, but in every instance accompanied by epidemics of varying severity, at times of great difference, and are under the same conditions of causation. He concluded with a theory that milder diffuse cholera are, necessarily, required to show that persons under the same conditions must arrive at points where it has been introduced, and that the first attacks in the community have been in persons exposed to the immediate cause; but there are now a good many cases of epidemic cholera which have been introduced at a distance from where the disease was already prevailing, and without any trace of importation, and where those first attacked had resided in the community for many years, and without any communication with any previous case. Such have been the outbreaks at Southampton in 1885 and at Newcastle in 1878, and at Tientsin and south of China in 1893. He concluded by stating that he was interested on the spot. The meeting was adjourned.

HONGKONG RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

On the 7th inst. nine members took part in the spoon and cup contest, but one retired. The shooting was but medium. Mr. Robertson won the 200 yards spoon; Colour-Sergeant Boyd the 500 yards; and Mr. Watson the 600 yards; and Mr. Ford (for the first time) the cup kindly presented by Mr. Sanson:—

It is almost universally condemned. It is not
effed in the new Merchant Shipping Ordinance. all agree that we should have a medical exami-

Hon. T. H. WATERMAN.—And junk.
 THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY.—I do not follow that business; the law may not hit all the cases, but it is a law, and you must not cannot prevent sickness people. It is not a law, why you should not prevent sickness people from coming. Assume that you have got a lot of cases of cholera, and you have a quarantine, and assume, as I suppose everyone will that I have said, that I am sure you have a health officer, and that the health officer should inspect the vessel and say whether it is fit to land or not. It is not a law. All cases of sickness are naturally segregated and put upon the *Isola*. This quarantine is the proper one. The remaining problem then is to prevent the disease from being brought aboard and who are not acutely sick but who may be in process of incubating the disease, a process which takes, I believe, in the case of cholera, four or five days. You have to have twelve days to develop illness. There are three courses to select. You can make all the people stay on the ship; you can watch all the people for disease. Or you can have a quarantine with isolation and cure with them the infection of themselves which they are incubating. If they are not acutely sick, they can be taken ashore to let them land and place them in some *Isola*. Under the old system they had a *Isola* at St. Helena's Island. With a quarantine at St. Helena's Island, you can how far it was correct, that in one occasion there was a great number of coolies placed there from an infected ship. I don't know whether it was correct or not, but I have been informed that these coolies refused to get out of the island, that they threatened to murder the Doctor, that they made calls and came to the shore, and that the Government was going to establish a *Isola* at this place, and that you shall have to place a guard there and, as you could not leave the guard to know about the ship, you would have to have a guard of a house. And that means money. You would certainly want a *Isola* of a more suitable kind than that at St. Helena's Island. It seems to me that the Government has a great connection with it to see whether according to modern scientific principles it is deemed better to keep people on the ship for a short time, which would be a great deal better, or whether you should by persons on shore or whether you shall have a proper *Isola* or impose no restrictions at all, and allow the people to come on shore as they please, and to be with the sick people. That is an important question to settle. I understand that the opinion was expressed to the Government that it is most important that the quarantine should be handled should be a sanitary place and then if any vessel did break out they would not probably have any trouble for many years of course not as to things in England, but in the colonies, possibly do have. There was an important occasion held about three years ago at St. Helena's Island, and the Government had the main business happening to be a good friend of mine I received a report of the proceedings. I was not there, but I have heard that it was very difficult to the hon. member. The question at that conference again I shall be to how long these diseases take in incubating and how long they take in coming out. The island of course they have a temperate climate and with excellent laws of health circumstances are not favorable to the spread of disease. I think that the Government should have a further length with the subject, but I want to print out that the Government have not forgotten this matter. We found that the Government had a great deal of trouble and instead of that bill being water law the *Isola* which is infinitely preferable and having had the ground at St. Helena's we now have a *Isola* at St. Helena's Island, and I think that that is a very good thing. I have no doubt his Excellency will express his view on the matter and I have no doubt that the Government will have an interesting information. I do not think that the commission will express the opinion that the quarantine system is all nonsense from beginning to end.
 Hon. T. H. WATERMAN.—I am quite willing

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THE "HYGIA."

anities is absolutely useless. Now, what do we gain by quarantine? Let us take to a case, and let us suggested that if a ship coming from some place where cholera is prevalent has a number of Europeans and a still larger number of Chinese with cases of cholera—would you suggest, I say, that the Government should send a party of soldiers to these people on the shores of this Colony, to some point in the streets of the town, and carry them off to the hospital? Would you suggest the use of the word infectious implies its character, and if you can catch the disease surely you would not have people bringing it into the Colony? I say, that I think it is that the Government member himself would not like a man to come on board of a ship that had cholera on board to stay him a week or two. What then do we mean

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